GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:508
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
HEPATITIS - B
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Hepatitis-B disease is spreading in the countryat an alarming rate through articles of personal use such as tooth brushes, towel or even handkerchief as reported in the Times of India, dated June 14, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plans to check the spread of this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) Hepatitis-B spreads due to unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injections etc., and from mother to child. Hepatitis-B is preventable by ensuring safe blood transfusion, safe sex, safe injection practices etc. Vaccine for Hepatitis-B is also available. Following measures have been taken too prevent Hepatitis-B :-

- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.
- Health awareness campaigns under National AIDS Control Programme are held.
- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection
- A pilot project to immunize children against Hepatitis-B in selected cities/districts has been launched under National Immunisation Programme.
- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.